

House File 692 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the staffing of brain health professionals
2 in primary and secondary schools and making appropriations.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.1, Code 2023, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 01. "*Brain health*" means the same as in
4 section 225C.2, and incorporates the findings and purposes
5 stated in section 225C.1, subsection 3.

6 Sec. 2. Section 135.11, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 22A. Adopt rules which allow mental health
9 providers to use the term "*brain health*" synonymously with the
10 terms "*mental health*" or "*mental illness*" and promote the usage
11 of the term "*brain health*" for the purpose of reducing stigma
12 related to mental health disease and illness.

13 Sec. 3. Section 225C.1, subsection 1, Code 2023, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 1. The general assembly finds that services to persons
16 with mental illness, ~~an intellectual disability~~ disabilities,
17 developmental disabilities, or brain ~~injury~~ injuries or other
18 brain health issues are provided in many parts of the state by
19 highly autonomous community-based service providers working
20 cooperatively with state and county officials. However, the
21 general assembly recognizes that heavy reliance on property tax
22 funding for ~~mental~~ brain health and intellectual disability
23 services has enabled many counties to exceed minimum state
24 standards for the services resulting in an uneven level of
25 services around the state. Consequently, greater efforts
26 should be made to ensure close coordination and continuity
27 of care for those persons receiving publicly supported
28 disability services in Iowa. It is the purpose of [this chapter](#)
29 to continue and to strengthen the services to persons with
30 disabilities now available in the state of Iowa, to make
31 disability services conveniently available to all persons in
32 this state upon a reasonably uniform financial basis, and to
33 assure the continued high quality of these services.

34 Sec. 4. Section 225C.1, Code 2023, is amended by adding the
35 following new subsection:

1 The bill includes brain health issues in the legislative
2 findings relating to services to persons with mental illness,
3 an intellectual disability, developmental disabilities, or
4 brain injury in Code chapter 225C (mental health and disability
5 services). The bill provides that the general assembly
6 finds that to reduce the stigma associated with brain health
7 disease and illness and to assist Iowans in receiving brain
8 health diagnosis and treatment, the term "brain health" may be
9 used synonymously with the terms "mental health" and "mental
10 illness" to allow for more preventative and earlier treatments
11 of those Iowans with brain health issues.

12 The bill defines "brain health" as all aspects of the brain
13 impacted by biological and physical characteristics of the
14 brain affecting mood and behavior.

15 The bill adopts the same intent and meaning of "brain health"
16 for Code chapters 135 (department of public health) and 280
17 (uniform school requirements) as established in Code chapter
18 225C.

19 The bill creates a duty for the department of public health
20 to adopt rules which allow mental health providers to use
21 the term "brain health" synonymously with the terms "mental
22 health" or "mental illness" and promote the usage of the term
23 "brain health" for the purpose of reducing stigma related to
24 mental health disease and illness. This recognition of the
25 term "brain health" does not replace the terms "mental health"
26 or "mental illness" as it relates to medical billing or state
27 professional licensure.

28 The bill makes it a requirement for all charter schools,
29 public schools, and accredited nonpublic schools to have a
30 minimum of one health care professional with brain health
31 credentials available on site to assist students during normal
32 hours of instruction.

33 The bill annually appropriates to the department of
34 education an amount sufficient to provide this staffing, and
35 requires the department of health and human services to assist

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1 the department of education in determining the required amount.